### Free Summer Ranger Programs - Alpine & East Side All children must be accompanied by an adult Programs may be cancelled due to high winds or lightning Length WED Location SUN MON TUE **FRI SAT** Alpine Tundra To Trees - Hike an ancient Ute trail 4 hour Milner Pass that leads from alpine heights down through old 9:00 growth forest. Plan to carpool for this moderate hike parking lot a.m. 4-mile hike. Bring warm clothing, rain gear, water & snacks. 7/6 - 8/17 **High Country Geology -** The park's 3 hour Alpine 9:00 spectacular scenery represents a chapter in a long Visitor Center history of geologic events. Join us on this hike hike a.m. over the tundra and experience the effects of these flagpole processes. 7/3 - 8/7 Tundra Nature Walk - Exhilarate your senses 10:00 10:00 10:00 10:00 10:00 10:00 10:00 1.5-2 hour Alpine with alpine views and miniature wildflower gardens. Dress warmly; plan to caravan to the location. hike Visitor Center a.m. a.m. a.m. a.m. a.m. a.m. a.m. Ends 8/11 All About Lightning - Learn why lightning can 2:00 2:00 2:00 30 minute Alpine F be a hair-raising experience and find out how to p.m. talk Visitor Center p.m. p.m. minimize your risk of being struck. **High Country Tails -** Discover what 2:00 2:00 Alpine 30 minute alpine animals can tell us about living life on the Visitor Center p.m. talk p.m. mountaintops. **Plants** Lily Lake Wildflower Walk - Take time to stop Lily Lake 2:30 2:30 2:30 1.5 hour F and smell the roses, and enjoy learning about the hike parking lot p.m. p.m. p.m. variety of flowers blooming this season. Easy walk. Ends 8/11 Children's Programs Junior Ranger 10:00 10:00 10:00 10:00 10:00 10:00 10:00 Junior Ranger Program - Earn your Junior 30 minute 4 Headquarters 11:30 11:30 11:30 11:30 11:30 11:30 11:30 Ranger badge! Join a ranger for a variety of programs program at Hidden 1:00 1:00 1:00 1:00 1:00 1:00 1:00 and activities at the Junior Ranger Headquarters. Valley 2:30 2:30 2:30 2:30 2:30 2:30 2:30 Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ends 8/17 Andy Aspen Puppet Show - Andy Aspen says, 20-30 min. Fall River "Please, fence me in!" Join Andy, his puppet friends 10:00 E puppet Visitor Center and a ranger for a compelling the story of how elk, a.m. program big fences, aspen groves and animals get along in the park these days. Ends 8/17 Wildlife End of Upper 2:30 2:30 1 -1.5 hour 2:30 2:30 Beaver **Tracking Wildlife -** Put your detective skills to walk Meadows p.m. p.m. p.m. p.m. the test, uncover clues, and learn about the animals Road that call Upper Beaver Meadows home. **Bighorn Basics -** Sheep Lakes in Horseshoe Park 10:30 10:30 10:30 Sheep Lakes 10:30 10:30 10:30 10:30 30 minute F Information a.m. talk a.m. a.m. a.m. a.m. a.m. a.m. Station **Amazing Beavers -** Beavers drastically change Beaver 30 minute 10:30 10:30 10:30 10:30 8 their environment, and they have wonderful

is a popular viewing area for bighorn sheep. Learn about this majestic symbol of Rocky. Ends 8/18

All About Elk - Learn about this magnificent

watchable wildlife. With a few tips, you can find the

animal, and its current status in the park.

Where's the Wildlife? - Rocky has very

Predators of Rocky - Discover the secret

lives of Rocky's predators and how they shape the

Horseshoe Park Wildlife - What is that out

Birds of Upper Beaver Meadows - Join

a ranger to seek bluebirds, woodpeckers, wrens,

woodlands. Bring binoculars and a field guide.

and flycatchers in a rich mixture of aspen and pine

call Horseshoe Park Home. Ends 8/18

there? Join a ranger to learn about the wildlife that

adaptations to do so.

best spots to view them.

ecosystem.



4

4

talk

walk

30 minute

talk

30 minute

talk

30 minute

talk

1.5 hour

hike

1-1.5 hour

Meadows Visitor Center West Alluvial Fan parking lot

Beaver

Meadows

Visitor Center

Fall River

Visitor Center

Sheep Lakes

Information

Station

End of Upper

Beaver

Meadows

Road

10:30

a.m.

11:00

a.m.

2:00

p.m.

2:30 p.m.

2:00

p.m.

7:00

a.m.

a.m.

10:30 a.m. 11:00

a.m.

2:00

p.m.

7:00

a.m.

10:00

a.m.

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2:00

p.m.

7:00

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11:00 a.m. 2:00 2:00 p.m. p.m.

7:00

a.m.

10:00

a.m.

a.m.

2:30

p.m.

2:00

p.m.

7:00

a.m.

a.m.

2:30

p.m.

Junior Ranger Program

Hey, Kids! Come to The Junior Ranger Headquarters! Located at Hidden Valley along Trail Ridge Road, this is a place just for you! Join a ranger-led program, complete your Junior Ranger book, and earn a badge. The Junior Ranger activity booklets are offered for kids of all ages and are available at most visitor contact stations. The Junior Ranger Headquarters is open from June 16 – August 17, and programs are

> offered 4 times a day, 7 days a week! Programs are geared for kids ages 6-12, and it is free to participate. A parent or adult must be present with children at all times.

Headquarters is open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily. Jr. Ranger Programs are at 10, 11:30, 1:00 & 2:30 daily.





Walks Talks and Hikes All children must be accompanied by an a							by an ad	n adult			
Walks, Talks, and Hikes	6	Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<b>Lumpy Ridge Hike -</b> Explore the history, dramatic views, and diverse ecosystems found in this unique corner of the park on a moderate 2 mile hike.		2-2.5 hour hike	Lumpy Ridge Trailhead			9:00 a.m.		9:00 a.m.			
<b>Life on the Edge -</b> From elk to pikas, forest trees to tiny alpine flowers, park life comes in all shapes and sizes. Discover how this diversity of life is changing.	E	30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center		11:00 a.m		11:00 a.m		11:00 a.m		
Lily Lake Stroll - Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely lake beneath Longs Peak while exploring the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape.	E	1- 1.5 hour walk	Lily Lake parking lot		10:30 a.m.			10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.		
Hot Topics in the Park - Want to hear the very latest news about bear and beetle or other management challenges in the park? Join us for two short movies and a Ranger to answer questions.	E	30 - 45 minute discussion	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	
Evening Programs				9:00	9:00	1	9:00		9:00	9:00	
<b>Aspenglen Evening Program -</b> Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See the weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly.	E	45 minute talk	Aspenglen Campground Amphitheater	8:30 p.m.	9.m. 6/16-7/13 8:30 p.m. 7/14-8/26		p.m. 6/16-7/13 8:30 p.m. 7/14-8/28		8:30 p.m.	p.m. 6/16-7/13 8:30 p.m. 7/14-8/31	
Beaver Meadows Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs.	E	45 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium	, , ,	, .		7:30 p.m. Artist Night			7:30 p.m.	
Moraine Park Evening Program - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See the weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly.	E	45 minute talk	Moraine Park Campground Amphitheater	8:30 p.m.	9:00 p.m. 6/16-7/13 8:30 p.m. 7/14-8/26	7:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	9:00 p.m. 6/16-7/13 8:30 p.m. 9/14-8/30	9:00 p.m. 6/16-7/13 8:30 p.m. 7/14-8/31	
Night Sky Programs			End of Upper		8:30 p.m. 8:15 p.m. 8:00 p						
<b>Astronomy in the Park</b> - Join a park ranger and local astronomers to discover the magic of the night sky. Dress warmly, bring binoculars and a flashlight.		30 minute program followed by viewing	Beaver Meadows		June 28 July 12 & 26 August 9 & 30  All Astronomy in the Park programs are on a Friday evening at the times and dates above						
Stories Behind the Moon & Stars - The night sky comes alive through storytelling and fun activities. Celebrate darkness at the Estes Park Memorial Observatory. The observatory is located at 1600 Manford Avenue near the Estes Park High School and Stanley Park Fairgrounds. Dress warmly. Bring binoculars and a flashlight.		1-1.5 hour program	Estes Park Memorial Observatory	8:30 p.m. 8:15 p.m. 8:00 p.m. June 21 July 5 & 19 August 2 & 16  All Stories Behind the Moon & Stars programs are on a Friday evening at the times and dates above.						ms	

### **International Sister Parks**

Rocky Mountain National Park and the Tatra National Parks in Slovakia and Poland have recently renewed their sister park relationship. Because they have similar mountain terrain and ecosystems, and are seeking solutions to common issues, the three parks are exchanging information and expertise to better manage these great preserves for the benefit of all.



**Tatra National Park of Slovakia and Poland** 

# **Rocky Mountain Field Seminars**

Outdoor Adventures in Rocky Mountain National Park

Grand Lake Safari Bus Adventure (all ages) Every Tuesday June 11 - September 3



Plant & Wildflower Identification with a Naturalist (adults)
June 26; July 10, 17, 24, 31; August 14

Kids' Hiking Series (kids 7 - 15) June 29; July 13, 27; August 17 Intro to Outdoor Digital Photography (adults) July 19-21

Rocks & Minerals of RMNP (adults) July 25

Mountain Lion: RMNP's Top Predator (adults) August 24-25

Ask at any visitor center for more information.



970-586-3262 www.rmna.org

### Free Park Movie



See the stunning 23-minute park movie at both the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.-5 p.m. and at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center during normal business hours. This film features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of Rocky Mountain

National Park, as well as wildlife and park history. A Captioned version is available at Kawuneeche Visitor Center and Captioned and Audio Description versions are available at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. Available in both Español (translation headsets available upon request) and English at Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers.

Free Summer Ranger Programs - West Side All children must be accompanied by an adult										
Walks and Uilsa	E		Programs may b	e cancell	ed due to l	nigh winds	or lightn	_	EDI	CAT
Walks and Hikes Hike Through History - Discover hidden		Length	<b>Location</b> Colorado		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
remnants of mining and dude ranch history along the Colorado River on this gentle 3-mile hike.		3 hours, 3 miles	River Trailhead	9:30 a.m.						
<b>Inside the Fence</b> – Go inside an exclosure to learn about moose, elk and beaver and to explore habitat recovery first hand.		1 hour, 1 mile	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area	2:30 p.m.						
<b>Beyond The Falls</b> - A pleasant stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond		1.5 hour, 1 mile	East Inlet Trailhead		10:00 a.m.					
Mountain Wildflowers - A ranger will lead you to the best current blooms and explore why they're special. Caravan to this week's flowers. Ends 8/13		2 hours	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole			2:00 p.m.				
Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk - Learn about the human history of the Kawuneeche Valley while strolling to the grounds of an historic guest ranch. Starts 6/22. Wednesdays only after August 17.	E	1.5 hour, 1 mile	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area				10 a.m.			2:30 p.m.
<b>Wilderness Connections -</b> A moderate hike on a new section of the Continental Divide Trail featuring a lovely meadow and river.		1.5 to 2 hours, 2 miles	Onahu Trailhead						9:30 a.m.	
Children's Programs										
<b>Junior Ranger Program -</b> Join a ranger for a short program and activities to earn your Junior Ranger badge. 6/19 - 8/17		1 hour	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	2 p.m.	2 p.m.		2 p.m.	2 p.m.	2 p.m.	
Web Walkers - Explore a section of the Colorado River. Activities are designed for children 6-12 years old. Ends 8/15	E	1 hour	Coyote Valley Trailhead			10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.		
Come Bug a Ranger - Learn fun facts about insects. Puppets, stories and activities for children 4-10 years old. Ends 8/14	E	1 hour	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area				10:30 a.m.			
A Walk Backwards - Step back in time and experience life on a 1920s dude ranchchores, games, period costumes. For children 6-12.  Registration required at Kawuneeche Visitor Center or (970)627-3471. Ends 8/9	E	2 hour activity	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area						9:45 a.m.	
Talks & Activities										
Holzwarth Historic Site - Tour a 1920s-era dude ranch for a taste of early homesteading and tourism. Buildings Closed (No Tours) Thursdays.	E	Drop-in tour	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area				a.m. to . ot Thur			
<b>Skins and Things -</b> Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals.	E	40 minutes	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	3:15 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	3:15 p.m.
Ranger's Flyfishing School - Learn about the park's fish management program, stream ecology, and flycasting. Bring your flyfishing gear or borrow the ranger's. 6/24 - 8/12		3 hour activity	Timber Creek Campground amphitheater		8:30 a.m.					
Behind the Scenes - See short videos documenting how the park addresses challenges like elk management, pine beetles, and bear safety. Starts 6/22	E	1 hour discussion	Kawuneeche Visitor Center			10:30 a.m.				10:30 a.m.
<b>Sisters of Courage -</b> Learn about the pioneer experience through the story of the remarkable Harbison sisters and their family. Includes a 1/2 mile walk to the homestead site. <b>Starts 7/1</b>		2.5 hour activity	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole		1 p.m.					

# **Greening Your Park**

1-1.5 hour

activity

Timber Lake

Trailhead



Exploring with a Camera - Focus on

composition, light and basic tips to improve your

pictures during this photography walk. Ends 8/2

## Recycling Available in Major Park Locations

Glass, plastic #1 though #7 and aluminum may be recycled in park campgrounds and at major park locations. Look for our distinctive recycling containers or ask at any visitor center or campground for their locations.

Help us reduce the use of plastic water bottles! There is limited potable drinking water in the park. Please remember to bring your own resusable water containers and refill them at park visitor centers.





2:30

p.m.

	All children must be accompanied by an adult									
Evening Programs	(5)	Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Timber Creek Evening Program - Presentation available nightly at Timber Creek.	1 hour			9 <sup>p.m.</sup> 6/16 -8/10	9 p.m. 6/16 -8/10	9 p.m. 6/16 -8/10	9 p.m. 6/16 -8/10	9 p.m. 6/16 -8/10	9 p.m. 6/16 -8/10	
Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics.	الك	presentation	Campground amphitheater	p.m.	8:30 p.m. 8/11 - 9/2					
<b>Saturday Night in the Park -</b> Enjoy an evening program in the auditorium. For topics, inquire at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.	E	1 hour	Kawuneeche Visitor Center auditorium							7:00 p.m.
Walk Into Twilight - Enjoy a leisurely stroll as darkness, night sounds and wildlife fill the valley. Bring warm clothes, good hiking shoes, and a flashlight. Ends 8/11		2 hour walk	Onahu Creek Trailhead	8 p.m. 6/16 -7/28 7:30 p.m. 8/4 -8/11						
nasningini. Enas 6/11				0/4-0/11						
Old Ranch Campfire - Roasting marshmallows (bring 'em), tall tales (the old wrangler will tell 'em) and campfire songs bring back the old days. Dress warmly. Ends 8/9	E	2 hours, 1 mile walk	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area						7:00 p.m.	
Night Sky Programs			Harbison							
Celestial Wilderness - Use a telescope to explore the astronomy of Rocky's night sky. If overcast, meet at Kawuneeche Visitor Center for indoor presentation. Ends 8/10		1-1.5 hour	Meadow parking area.							9:00 p.m. 6/19 -7/27
	activity	If overcast, Kawuneeche Visitor Center							8:45 p.m. 8/3 - 8/10	

### "Fire On the Mountain"

Fire! The word can bring wonder, excitement and fear. But to those who manage America's national parks, the word is an accepted part of the challenging vocabulary of ecosystems. Rocky Mountain National Park's own Fern Lake Fire started with an illegal campfire on Tuesday, October 9, 2012, in steep and rugged Forest Canyon. Firefighters from across the country battled it for two months before the spread of the nearly 3,500-acre blaze was temporarily halted by an early December snowstorm.

Large fires in high elevations of the Rocky Mountains are different than many other areas of the country. They are infrequent and have the potential for high consequences and big impacts on the landscape. The Fern Lake Fire was no exception. Largely inaccessible, Forest Canyon had been untouched by fire for at least 800 years. A long-term drought had left fuels tinder-dry, and the forest fuel layer there can exceed twenty feet deep. Trees killed by mountain pine beetle and windy conditions in the canyon only increased the danger to firefighters.

Park fire managers knew from the beginning it was going to be a long-term event. There was limited ability to fight the fire directly because of high winds, steep terrain, and beetle-killed trees. Firefighter safety is the park's number one priority. The high winds impacted both air operations and safety of firefighters.

Wildfire experts anticipate that we can expect fires to continue at this level unless conditions change. Continued drought will intensify the number of fires in our forests. The trend indicates larger and more rapidly spreading fires can be expected. The number of acres burned nationally has been at historic highs for six of the last nine years. There is no indication that this trend will reverse soon.

And this fire? The last time smoke was seen was January 7, however, it will not be called "out" until no smoke or heat is detectable.



Fern Lake Fire burning in Forest Canyon.



Fern Lake Fire from Trail Ridge Road.



# This Park Paper

